Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1994/L.68
1 March 1994

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Australia, Austria, Barbados, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic*, France, Gambia*, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines*, Russian Federation and Uruguay: draft resolution

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and those of the General Assembly concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, notably its resolutions 1990/73 of 7 March 1990, 1991/27 of 5 March 1991, 1992/54 of 3 March 1992 and 1993/55 of 9 March 1993 and General Assembly resolutions 44/64 of 8 December 1989, 46/124 of 17 December 1991 and 48/134 of 20 December 1993,

Stressing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international instruments for promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms,

---

* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Affirming that priority should be accorded to the development of appropriate arrangements to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards,

Convinced of the important role that can be played by national institutions in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recognizing that the United Nations has played and should continue to play a catalytic role in assisting the development of national institutions,

Recalling in particular in this regard the Principles relating to the status of national institutions annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134,

Welcoming the growing interest shown worldwide in the creation and strengthening of national institutions expressed during the regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights and at the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, as well as at the Commonwealth Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions, held at Ottawa from 30 September to 2 October 1992, the Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region on Human Rights Issues, held at Jakarta from 26 to 28 January 1993, and the second International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held at Tunis from 13 to 17 December 1993,

Welcoming with particular satisfaction the convening of the second International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at Tunis, and noting the decisions and recommendations adopted by national institutions at that meeting relating to the strengthening of national institutions, as well as the recommendations on the protection of disabled persons, children, women, migrants and those subject to arbitrary detention and torture (E/CN.4/1994/45, chap. VI),

Welcoming also the decisions, announced recently by several States, to establish, or consider establishing, independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference, in which was reaffirmed the important constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in

remedying human rights violations, and in the dissemination of human rights information and education concerning human rights,

Noting in particular that the World Conference on Human Rights strongly urged Governments to incorporate standards as contained in international human rights instruments in domestic legislation and to strengthen national institutions which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive participation of representatives of a number of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in international seminars and workshops organized or sponsored by the United Nations and its Member States and in other United Nations activities,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the development, in accordance with national legislation, of effective national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and of ensuring the pluralism of their membership and their independence;

2. Encourages all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange, including by national institutions, of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of such national institutions;

3. Also encourages Member States to establish or, where they already exist, to strengthen national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and, where appropriate, to incorporate those elements in national development plans or in their preparation of national action plans, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

4. Emphasizes in this regard the need to disseminate the Principles relating to the status of national institutions, annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993, as widely as possible and to utilize them fully;

5. Affirms the role of national institutions, where they exist, as appropriate agencies for the dissemination of human rights materials and other public information activities under the auspices of the United Nations;

6. Recognizes the important and constructive role that non-governmental organizations can play in cooperation with national institutions for the better promotion and protection of human rights;

7. Welcomes the decision taken by national institutions at the second international Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Tunis, 13-17 December 1993) to establish a Coordinating Committee which, under the auspices of and in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, will assist national institutions in following up the relevant resolutions and recommendations concerning the strengthening of national institutions, including those contained in the report of the Workshop (E/CN.4/1994/45);

8. Requests the Secretary-General to give a high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights as part of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights;

9. Requests the Centre for Human Rights, with the assistance of national institutions and their Coordinating Committee, to develop a programme of technical assistance for States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions and to organize training programmes for national institutions which request them, and invites Governments to contribute additional funds to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights for these purposes;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a third international workshop of national institutions during 1995 in either Latin America or Asia, to finance attendance by representatives of national institutions from the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and to invite Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for this purpose;

11. Calls for provision to be made for appropriate participation by national institutions in relevant United Nations human rights bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session, drawing on the experience of the World Conference on Human Rights, concerning the participation of national institutions, in their own right, in the work of the appropriate functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

12. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session.